

Isaiah 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

Analysis

'That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.' The shift from Babylon (future threat) to Assyria (immediate threat) shows God's sovereignty over all oppressors. Breaking 'the Assyrian' (singular, possibly the king or nation personified) happens 'in my land, on my mountains'—Judah, God's territory. To tread underfoot is complete defeat. Result: the yoke (symbol of servitude) and burden depart. This was fulfilled in 701 BC when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died overnight (Isaiah 37:36) and Sennacherib withdrew. God personally defends His land and people, breaking invaders' power.

Historical Context

Assyria dominated the ancient Near East during Isaiah's ministry, conquering the northern kingdom of Israel (722 BC) and threatening Judah. Sennacherib's 701 BC invasion was defeated miraculously. One night, the angel of the LORD struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers; Sennacherib fled and was later assassinated by his sons (Isaiah 37:36-38). This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy precisely: Assyria broken in Judah, its yoke removed. The Assyrian Empire never recovered its former power; within a century it fell to Babylon (612 BC). God's timing and methods (supernatural intervention) demonstrate He fights for His people.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's defense of 'my land' and 'my mountains' demonstrate His covenant faithfulness to His people?
2. What does the sudden reversal (from siege to slaughter of besiegers) teach about trusting God when circumstances seem desperate?

Interlinear Text

לֶשֶׁב	ר	עַל	בָּאָרֶץ	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	קָרְבָּן
That I will break	the Assyrian	in my land		H5921	and upon my mountains		
H7665	H804	H776			H2022		
אֶבְיוֹס	עַל	מַעֲלִים	עַל	וְ			
tread him under foot	depart			H5921	then shall his yoke		
H947	H5493				H5923		
וְ	בְּלִי	מַעַל	שְׁכָמָן	וְ	יִסְעוֹרָן		
from off them and his burden		H5921	from off their shoulders	H7926	depart		
H5448					H5493		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 9:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.

Nahum 1:13 (Parallel theme): For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.

Isaiah 14:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.